

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A hydropneumatic axle suspension having an adjustable axle-spring rate for a vehicle having varying axle loads, comprising:

- a first hydropneumatic accumulator;
- a hydraulic suspension cylinder having a cylinder chamber and an annular space;
- a first pressure-regulated suspension circuit connecting the cylinder chamber to the first hydropneumatic accumulator;
- a first regulating valve for regulating the first pressure-regulated suspension circuit;
- a level-control device for regulating a pressure in the first suspension circuit;
- a second hydropneumatic accumulator;
- a second pressure-regulated suspension circuit connecting the annular space to the second hydropneumatic accumulator;
- a second regulating valve for regulating the second pressure-regulated suspension circuit;
- and
- an electromagnetic actuator configured to automatically change the axle spring rate according to a predefined control mode.

Claim 2 (original): The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 1 further comprising an electronic control unit linked to the electromagnetic actuator and configured to process electronic measured data.

Claim 3 (original): The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 1 wherein the axle-spring rate is adjustable between a first and a second predefined spring rate using external control signals.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 1

wherein the electromagnetic actuator includes a proportional pressure-regulating valve configured to proportionally regulate the axle-spring rate between a first and a second constant pressure value.

Claim 5 (original): The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 4 wherein the proportional pressure-regulating valve is further configured to regulate the axle-spring rate to a selectable constant pressure.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the first regulating valve includes a first 2/2 directional control valve for regulating the first suspension circuit and the second regulating valve includes a second 2/2 directional control valve for regulating the second suspension circuit.

Claim 7 (original): The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 6, wherein the first and second 2/2 directional control valves hydraulically block the first and second suspension circuits when a level position is reached.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 4 further comprising~~ A hydropneumatic axle suspension having an adjustable axle-spring rate for a vehicle having varying axle loads, comprising:

_____ a first hydropneumatic accumulator;
_____ a hydraulic suspension cylinder having a cylinder chamber and an annular space;
_____ a first pressure-regulated suspension circuit connecting the cylinder chamber to the first hydropneumatic accumulator;
_____ a level-control device for regulating a pressure in the first suspension circuit;
_____ a second hydropneumatic accumulator;
_____ a second pressure-regulated suspension circuit connecting the annular space to the second hydropneumatic accumulator;
_____ an electromagnetic actuator configured to automatically change the axle spring rate according to a predefined control mode, wherein the electromagnetic actuator includes a

proportional pressure-regulating valve configured to proportionally regulate the axle-spring rate between a first and a second constant pressure value; and

a shuttle valve and a first pressure line hydraulically linking the shuttle valve to the pressure-regulating valve so that when the pressure-regulating valve is not energized by a current, the shuttle valve is able to relieve the first pressure line of pressure.

Claim 9 (original): The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 8 further comprising an orifice valve, a 2/2 directional control valve and a supply line, a control line of the shuttle valve being connected between the 2/2 directional control valve and the orifice valve for sensing a pressure in the cylinder chambers.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 1 further comprising~~ A hydropneumatic axle suspension having an adjustable axle-spring rate for a vehicle having varying axle loads, comprising:

a first hydropneumatic accumulator;

a hydraulic suspension cylinder having a cylinder chamber and an annular space;

a first pressure-regulated suspension circuit connecting the cylinder chamber to the first hydropneumatic accumulator;

a level-control device for regulating a pressure in the first suspension circuit;

a second hydropneumatic accumulator;

a second pressure-regulated suspension circuit connecting the annular space to the second hydropneumatic accumulator;

an electromagnetic actuator configured to automatically change the axle spring rate according to a predefined control mode; and

a first orifice valve installed in a supply line of the first suspension circuit and a second orifice valve installed in a supply line of the second suspension circuit, the orifice valves being used for adapting a control time of the change in the axle-spring rate.

Claim 11 (original): The hydropneumatic axle suspension as recited in claim 1, wherein the hydropneumatic axle suspension is for a front axle of a tractor.